



Examples of Whale Tail License Plate Grants

The California Coastal Commission uses funds from sales of the Whale Tail License Plate to support a wide variety of innovative, local marine education projects. The Whale Tail Grants Program has so far awarded 77 grants totaling \$978,000. Below are some examples of projects that received funding:

The California State Parks Ventura Junior Lifeguard Program



Kids get the chance to learn while they kayak in Ventura County.

launched the Channel Islands Coastal Experience Camp to give 9 to 15-year-olds first-hand experience with aquatic life. The camp teaches "at-risk," non-traditional beach users who kayak and snorkel, conduct beach cleanups, and also learn about wildlife, habitats, polluted runoff, and marine debris.



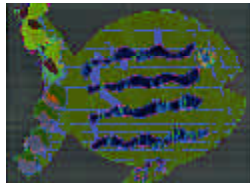
The Upper Sacramento River Exchange in Dunsmuir helped local students design and build a traveling public exhibit about rivers, salmon, and the importance of caring for inland watersheds. The students designed and built a salmon sculpture and filled it with items that can harm fish. They also wrote poetry, studied ecology, painted, wrote research papers, performed skits, and conducted a lake cleanup.



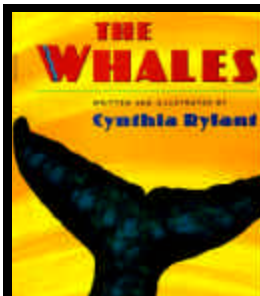
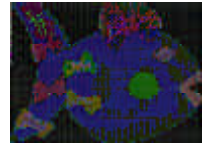
Ocean Song Farm and Wilderness Center is giving elementary and middle school students the opportunity to explore watershed environments in Sonoma County. The program targets students in low-income and underserved neighborhoods. Participants take two field trips: they visit the headwaters of Finley Creek and engage in fun and educational activities to learn about ponds, streams, and watersheds; and they visit Shell Beach, where they go tidepooling and learn about the marine life there.



Students exploring at Shell Beach



The Glendale Public Library held story hours for young children and their families revolving around the theme of ocean life, beach ecology, and care for the environment. The library also hosted ocean-related craft activities, and parents and their children were able to decorate fish to display on the walls when they visited the Children's Room. In addition to the story hours, the library purchased several hundred new ocean-related books, books-on-tape, and educational videos.



The Kids' Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly Program and Beach Clean-Up offers a slide presentation and discussion of the dangers of plastic and debris in the oceans, the storm drain system, litter reduction, recycling, and buying recycled products. Students then recycle and do a beach cleanup. This program targets low-income communities.

In 2002 this program took place in the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, Monterey County (visited by children from Fresno), and Humboldt County. The program reached brought approximately 5,000 children to the beach on May

22nd, deemed "Ocean Day." At the conclusion of each beach cleanup, the kids stood in formation and spelled out messages about the importance of protecting marine animals.



2002 aerial art message
Oceanside City Beach, San Diego County



2001 aerial art message
Dockweiler State Beach, Los Angeles

Heal the Bay serves as the Los Angeles County coordinator of the Coastal Commission's statewide Adopt-A-Beach program. Volunteers pledge to clean "their" beach three times per year, and Heal the Bay provides them with a trained beach captain and cleanup supplies.



Young volunteers clean the beach.

Heal the Bay also arranges bus transportation to bring inland, underserved elementary, middle, and high school students to the beach for cleanups, and provides educational materials and presentations as well.

Chaffee Zoological Gardens of Fresno created a component on oceans for Central Valley students at its Wild Connections Lab. With the help of a new curriculum, videos and CDs, students were able to attend "Jr. Marine Biologist" classes and took part in hands-on activities on topics such as kelp forests, marine animals, and ocean conservation.





University of Southern California Sea Grant Program started the Parent Child Education Program to teach inner-city students alongside their parents, both in the classroom and on field trips, about marine science, life and learning skills, and environmental stewardship, with a focus on the connection between cities and the ocean. After a successful pilot, this program is spreading to more and more schools.

First-grade students at **Mayo Elementary School** in Compton visited the Long Beach Aquarium, read ocean-related books, and joined the rest of their school in a Kid's Cleanup at Dockweiler Beach. They also designed games such as "toss the recycling into the recycling bin" for the school's year-end festival. Their teacher also worked with the school to house recycling bins that can be used by the students' families.



O'Neill Sea Odyssey operates an educational program aboard a catamaran featuring lessons in ecology, marine science, and navigation. A Whale Tail Grant allowed students from inland communities to take part in the program. Participating students are required to complete environmental community service projects prior to their sailing trip.

